

EPA Pollution Prevention Service Project

Follow each of the activities and instructions in the Pollution Prevention in Schools. Towards the end, you will find instructions on how to complete the service project with the students. Students will first break into groups and audit the school according to its uses of household hazardous materials, water conservation, energy efficiency, and pesticides usage.

After compiling the available data, encourage the students to determine their own course of action for addressing the issues that they find. Some schools may be environmentally-friendly in their upkeep, while others have a lot of work to do.

Students may find these methods of addressing their issues and taking action most reasonable:

- Create and present findings to the school administration, the school board, or the janitorial manager.
- Find community members to volunteer to make changes at the school that will improve its efficiency and adherence to pollution prevention principles
- Determine what ways that the students can take action to help, rather than expecting the janitorial and administrative staff to make changes
- Locate and apply for grants or other forms of funding to improve school's efficiency
- Start with just one issue like changing light bulbs to energy efficient ones, then work into another issue
- Extend these activities into an after-school environmental club, where students can further their development of ideas in a non-academic format
- Write an article for the school or community newspaper that informs other students and community members about the state of the school and how it can be improved

Naturally, be sure that the students have approval before making any changes, and keep students away from situations that may be dangerous for them. The students can also determine their own success criteria by deciding how much work and effort is reasonable within a certain amount of time.